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Letter dated 29 July 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 30 June 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 16 June 1999 as well as on 2, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 22 July 1999.

On 12 June, one C-130 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where they departed on the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 2 July, 12 F-16, three C-160 and one unknown type of Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The 12 F-16 exited thereafter in a south-easterly direction. The three C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, exiting thereafter in a south-easterly direction. The unknown type of Turkish military aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas in a search-and-rescue role.

On 12 July, four F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the areas of Cape Kormakitis, Kyrenia and Karpasia, before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 13 July, four F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. Two of the F-4 violated the

national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the areas of Cape Kormakitis and Kyrenia, before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 15 July, one C-550 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 1055 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 1556 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 16 July, two C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The C-130s violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic, from where they departed, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 19 July, 10 NF-5, two C-160, two C-650, two CN-235, and one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The 10 NF-5 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic, from where they departed, flying over the area of Kyrenia before landing and remaining at the same illegal airport. The rest of the aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria. Thereafter the two C-160 and one of the CN-235 landed at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic. The two C-650, one CN-235 and the B-200 landed at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. All aircraft, except the first mentioned CN-235, departed from the illegal airports, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 20 July, one GULFSTREAM, one CN-235 and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The GULFSTREAM and the CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where they departed on the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara. The C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas before exiting in a south-easterly direction. On the same day, at 1024 hours, a military transport aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic, flying over the area of Kioneli. Furthermore seven NF-5 aircraft also took off from the same illegal airport, at 1710 hours, before landing there again.

On 21 July, on F-4, one CN-235, and one unknown type of Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The F-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia, before exiting in a south-easterly direction. The CN-235 and the unknown type of Turkish military aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where they departed on the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 22 July, two RF-4, two C-130 and two C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The two RF-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the areas of Famagusta, Mesaoria, Kyrenia and Kormakitis before returning to the FIR of Ankara. The two C-130 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko in the occupied area of the Republic from where they departed on the same day, returning to the FIR of Ankara. The two C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing - one of them at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, and the other one at the illegal airport of Tymbou, in the occupied area of the Republic. Thereafter both aircraft departed the above-mentioned airports, returning to the FIR of Ankara. Furthermore, on the same day, the 10 NF-5 Turkish military aircraft which had landed on 19 July at the illegal airport of Lefkoniko, departed, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

As stated in our previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention to the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, which demonstrate once more Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would also like to underline that most of the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1251 (1999), in which all States were called upon to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force as well as the presence of Turkish military occupation forces on the island constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Agis LOIZOU
Chargé d'affaires a.i.